

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 63, wherein the lockable pivot includes a bendable elbow.
3. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 2, wherein the bendable elbow includes interlocking teeth, arranged to interlock when the lockable pivot is locked.
4. (Withdrawn - previously presented) The system of Claim 63, wherein the pivot ball is knurled, and wherein pincers secure the arms to the ball.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Withdrawn - previously presented) The system of Claim 63, wherein the lockable pivot includes a twist to lock mechanism.

Claims 7-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn - previously presented) The system of Claim 63, wherein the lockable pivot includes a solenoid.
12. (Withdrawn - previously presented) The system of Claim 63, wherein the force applying unit includes a threaded plunger.

Claims 13-17 (Cancelled)

18. (Withdrawn - previously presented) The system of Claim 62, further comprising at least one length adjusting unit attached to and interspersed with the one or more force applying units and the one or more coupling units, the length adjusting unit arranged to adjustably change length to adjust a length of the chain.
19. (Cancelled)

20. (Withdrawn - previously presented) The system of Claim 18, wherein the length adjusting unit includes a turnbuckle.

Claims 21-61 (Cancelled)

62. (Previously presented) A system for clamping a top work piece to an underlying work piece, the system comprising:

a crib for supporting the underlying work piece; and

a chain of interspersed coupling units and force applying units, the chain stretching across an upper surface of the top work piece, opposite ends of the chain secured to the crib, the coupling units allowing the force-applying units to conform to the upper surface of the top work piece, the force-applying units for pressing the top work piece against the underlying work piece.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 62, wherein at least one of the coupling units includes a single pivot ball, and a first arm and a second arm, one end of each arm lockably gripping the single pivot ball.

64. (Currently amended) A system for clamping aircraft skin having a complex surface shape to an aircraft frame, the apparatus-system comprising:

a crib configured to support the aircraft frame; and

a chain of interspersed coupling units and force applying units, the chain stretching across the surface of the skin, opposite ends of the chain secured to the crib, the coupling units allowing the force-applying units to conform to the complex shape of the skin, the force-applying units for pressing the skin against the frame.

65. (New) The system of claim 64, further comprising an aircraft frame supported by the crib; and aircraft skin having a complex surface shape, the aircraft skin pressed against the aircraft frame.

66. (New) A system for clamping a top work piece to an underlying work piece, the system comprising:

a crib for supporting the underlying work piece; and

a chain of lockable coupling units and force applying units, the coupling units interspersed with the force applying units, the chain stretching across an upper surface of the top work piece, opposite ends of the chain secured to the crib, the lockable coupling units being unlocked to make the chain flexible and allow the force-applying units to conform to the upper surface of the top work piece, the coupling units being locked to make the chain rigid and allow the force-applying units to press the top work piece against the underlying work piece.